

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/009,153

Examiner

Ing-Hour Lin

Applicant(s)

PLESCHIUTSCHNIGG ET AL.

Art Unit

1725

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 5/10/02.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 10 May 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 0206.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

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1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Friedrich Kueffner on November 21, 2003.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

In specification, at page 1, after the Title, inserted was

--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application is a 371 of PCT/EP00/05216, filed on June 7, 2000.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention--.

In specification, at page 1, paragraph 1, deleted was "according to the preamble of claim 1" in lines 1-2; and "according to the preamble of claim 7" in lines 2-3.

At page 2, after "are present." in line 3, inserted was

--2. Description of Related Art--.

At page 3, after "casting... speed." in line 12, inserted was

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

At page 3, lines 17-19, deleted was "This object is solved ... in the dependent claim s."

At page 4, after "invention." in line 8, inserted was

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--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING--.

At page 5, line 7, "(1.4)" was replaced by --(SEN) (1.5)--.

At page 6, after "a function ... distributor." in line 5, inserted was

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--.

IN THE CLAIMS

In claim 1, line 5, "narrows" was replaced by --narrow--; after "sides" inserted was --having an operating side and a driving side--; and after "faces" inserted was --having a fixed side and a loose side--; line 10, "wherein" was deleted; and "is prepared" was replaced by --comprises the steps of: providing--; line 12, "and wherein for" was deleted; and after "state" inserted was --by measuring--; line 13, "are measured" was deleted; line 25, "that" was replaced by --determining--; and "are determined" was deleted; line 33, after "an" inserted was --angular--; line 36, after "faces," inserted was --and--; line 37, "possible" was replaced by --permissible--; and line 43, "narrows" was replaced by --narrow--.

In claim 4, line 5, "narrows" was replaced by --narrow--.

In claim 6, line 1, "1" was replaced by --4--.

Claims 7-9 were canceled. However, attorney reserved the right to file divisional application.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Adams fails to teach the claimed method for operating a high-speed continuous casting plant for casting a

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metallic strand. Indeed, the prior art record fails to teach or suggest the combination of steps in a method for operating a high-speed continuous casting plant for casting a metallic strand, an particular, a slab, with casting speed of maximally 10 m/min., comprising: determining the actual casting state characterized by collective casting parameters and determining the changes of the actual casting state by measuring the casting parameters; and switching the operation to automated casting operation or to a semi-automatic control based on a predetermined nominal interval condition of the changes of the parameters, wherein the collective casting parameters are measured during the casting process (online) including: meniscus level of the molten mass in the distributor over the casting time, actual casting speed in m/min over the casting time, stopper or slide closure movement as a measure for the oxide purity over the casting time, heat flow via the casting mold faces, and heat flow via the casting mold narrow sides in MW/m^2 over the casting time. Therefore, the claimed feature is allowable over the art of record.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ing-Hour Lin whose telephone number is (571) 272-1180. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-5:30) Second Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tom Dunn can be reached on (571) 272-1171. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

I.H.L.

I.-H. Lin

03-04-04

Kiley Stone AU 1725
Philip Stone 3/8/04